



# Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Calumet City, IL*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Calumet City was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Located next to the south side of Chicago, Calumet City (population 39,071) shares the heavy industrial history of the region, as well as the blight resulting from the loss of this industrial base. The city's per capita income is \$18,123, and 12.2 percent of residents live below the poverty level. More than half of city residents are minorities. The city established a 100-acre Redevelopment Project Area to assist in redeveloping its deteriorated industrial area, where brownfields efforts will focus. Within the Redevelopment Project Area, the unemployment rate is 18 percent, and 70 percent of households live in poverty. The city experienced deterioration of its older neighborhoods during the



### Assessment Grants



**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**  
**\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the City of Calumet City for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to update the city's brownfields inventory, prioritize sites, and conduct four Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team  
312-886-7576  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields>

Grant Recipient: City of Calumet City, IL  
708-891-8141

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

1990s. Today, more than half the parcels in the city are either owned by the city or are tax-delinquent, boarded up, or vacant. The city has identified about 12 petroleum brownfields, including former gas stations. Assessment of brownfields will clarify environmental issues and is expected to catalyze redevelopment of the properties within the Redevelopment Project Area.